[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may we take it that the matter is under your consideration.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, it is under consideration.

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Speaker Sir . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : When I guided you to meet me in the Chamber, please take your seat.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North) : The entire House including you and probably the Communication Minister Shri Rajesh Pilot, would be surprised to know the decision of the Communication Ministry that in all 46 important cities of India, from 1st November, postal mail, letters, cards, etc. will not be delivered in the first, second and third floors of multi-storeyed buildings. This decision was taken by the Department on 29th May by a statutory order. In those days, we were amidst elections. Such statutory orders are required to be placed before the House. That has also not been done. You can just imagine the fate that all of us would face. These 46 cities include Delhi, Madras, Mumbai (Bombay) and others. Sir, this is a serious matter. If the Government implements the order, there will be chaotic conditions in the postal services. So, I demand a statement from the Communication Minister on this. I also demand that the order must be laid on the table of the House and it should be withdrawn. Otherwise it will be very difficult to get the mail. As it is, the postal services are at the lowest ebb. The condition will be more chaotic with this order. I demand that this order should be withdrawn. Anyway, this decision was taken long back in the past and hence it should be withdrawn.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : A number of times we raised in this House the matter regarding the take over of Larsen & Toubro in a clandestine manner by the Ambanis. An assurance was given by the leader of the House that the Finance Minister would make a statement on this.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : I have not given any such assurance.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : When we demanded a statement from the Minister, the leader of the House gave us an assurance that the Finance Minister would make a statement on this. This is a very serious matter. Larsen & Toubro is being taken over by the Ambanis in a clandestine manner and the Finance Ministry is silent on this. He should make a statement on this . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar) : Sir, I have received information from my constituency Andaman-Nicobar that the people there, are facing acute shortage of essential commodities, especially sugar. People are not getting sugar even from fair price shops. You know the geographical location of the Islands. We live in one of the remotest parts of the country. People are not getting sugar. It is an essential commodity. Sir, I would request the Government to ensure that, if necessary, special quota will be provided so that it can be distributed through the